

**Sandia National Laboratories,
helping our nation secure a
peaceful and free world
through technology.**

Sandia National Laboratories is committed to new approaches for conflict prevention and resolution. Borders and boundaries between regions of vastly differing economic means and opportunity are potential flashpoints for conflict. Such borders and boundaries have reduced economic potential, and quality-of-life on both sides. Sandia believes that the only way to reduce these stresses is through efforts that result in sustained economic development. The Bi-National Sustainability Laboratory is the embodiment of that concept.



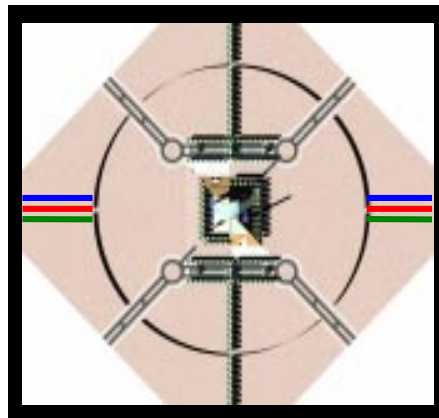
The US-Mexico border is economically depressed on both sides. If the US side were a State, it would be last in education, last in health care, last in literacy and first in unemployment.



**The Bi-National Sustainability
Laboratory is being developed by the
Advanced Concepts Group of Sandia
National Laboratories.**

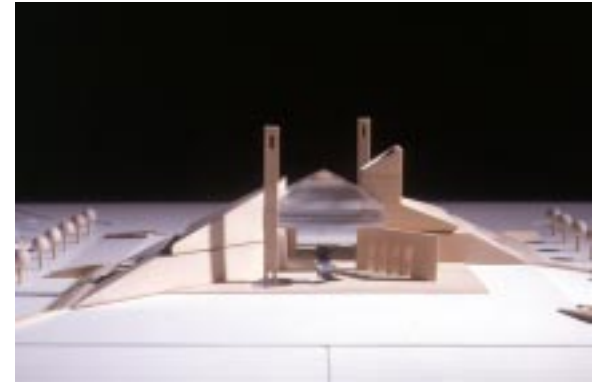
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BNSL

7/17/01



The Bi-National Sustainability Laboratory

An Engine for Sustained
Economic Development
on the
US-Mexico Border

BNSL

The United States-Mexico Border



The concept of a bi-national engine for sustainable development is globally applicable, but one of the most needed areas is close to home. The US-Mexico border is one of the longest in the world between a country of extreme wealth and a country with an emerging economy. This border has a history of depressed economics and stressed infrastructure on both sides. In addition, emerging resources problems, especially water, will exacerbate the current conditions. A lasting solution to the border problems requires programs that target community wealth creation, full employment at a living wage, and sustainable resource utilization. This wealth will empower the US border population and Mexico to provide for its infrastructure needs.

The Bi-National Sustainability Lab

We visualize the Bi-National Sustainability Laboratory (BNSL) literally straddling the border, located in a planned bi-national community designed to be a showcase of what cities can be. Funded by both the US and Mexican federal governments and other interested institutions and organizations, it will have a staff that is truly bi-national, comprising the best and brightest from both countries working and being paid as equals.

The BNSL is not envisioned to be a laboratory like Sandia, but rather an institution whose sole mission is sustainable economic development through the appropriate application of technology. Business creation and expansion will be through teams comprising experts in technology development and deployment, social sciences, business development, marketing, and finance—all working in parallel. The targets for business development will not only have potential for global market impact, but also tackle border infrastructure issues. These target areas include:

- advanced manufacturing
- water and agriculture
- energy, air, and transportation
- health care
- IT and communications

The BNSL Partners

The BNSL's role makes it difficult to envision it as captive to any US or Mexican federal agency. Rather, it is anticipated that the BNSL will be managed by a non-profit entity capable of accepting funding from both US and Mexican public and private institutions. Sandia is the author of this concept and is actively seeking such a partner to bring the concept to fruition. In addition, the success of this concept will depend on the active involvement of numerous institutions and organizations in the US and Mexico, including universities and community colleges, economic development organizations, state and local government agencies, and non-government institutions. There are a large number of existing programs addressing the border region, many with goals and objectives synergistic to the goal of the Bi-National Sustainability Laboratory. We hope to partner with these programs to learn from and work with them.

**Integrated Solutions
for
Sustainable Development**